

# REPORT

## ON

# NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 1st June 1889.

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## LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
BENGALI.				
Monthly.				
1	" Kasipore Nibási "	Kasipore, Burrisal ...	30	
Fortnightly.				
2	" Ahammadí "	Tangail, Mymensingh	450	
3	" Ave Maria "	Calcutta	.....	
4	" Divákar "	Ditto	.....	
5	" Gaura Duta "	Maldah	.....	
6	" Purva Bangabási "	Noakholly	.....	
7	" Purva Darpan "	Chittagong	700	
8	" Uttara Banga Hitaishi "	Mahiganj, Rungpore...	.....	
Weekly.				
9	" Arya Darpan "	Calcutta	102	17th May 1889.
10	" Bangabási "	Ditto	20,000	25th ditto.
11	" Burdwán Sanjibani "	Burdwan	302	21st ditto.
12	" Chandra Vilásh "	Berhampore	250	
13	" Cháruvartá "	Sherepore, Mymensingh	500	20th ditto.
14	" Chattal Gazette "	Chittagong	800	
15	" Dacca Prakásh "	Dacca	1,200	26th ditto.
16	" Education Gazette "	Hooghly	885	24th ditto.
17	" Faridpur Hitaishini "	Faridpur	.....	
18	" Garib "	Dacca	3,000	
19	" Grambási "	Uluberia	800	25th ditto.
20	" Gaurab "	Ditto	.....	
21	" Guru Charana "	Calcutta	.....	23rd & 30th May 1889.
22	" Hindu Ranjika "	Beauleah, Rajshahye...	300	22nd May 1889.
23	" Jagatbási "	Calcutta	750	
24	" Murshidábád Patriká "	Berhampore	508	
25	" Murshidábád Pratinidhi "	Ditto	350	
26	" Navavibhákar Sádharani "	Calcutta	600	27th ditto.
27	" Prajá Bandhu "	Chandernagore	995	24th ditto.
28	" Pratikar "	Berhampore	600	
29	" Rungpore Dik Prakásh "	Kakinia, Rungpore	205	9th & 16th May 1889.
30	" Sahachar "	Calcutta	500	22nd May 1889.
31	" Samaya "	Ditto	3,806	24th ditto.
32	" Sanjivani "	Ditto	4,000	25th ditto.
33	" Sansodhini "	Chittagong	800	
34	" Santi "	Calcutta	3,722	
35	" Saráswat Patra "	Dacca	300	
36	" Som Prakásh "	Calcutta	1,000	27th ditto.
37	" Srimanta Saudagar "	Ditto	.....	
38	" Sulabha Samáchar o Kusadaha "	Ditto	800	24th ditto.
39	" Surabhi o Patáka "	Ditto	700	23rd ditto.

No.	Names of newspapers.		Place of publication.		Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	
<i>Daily.</i>							
40	"Dainik o Samáchár Chandriká "	...	Calcutta	...	1,500	26th to 28th May 1889.	
41	"Samvád Prabhákar "	...	Ditto	...	800	28th & 29th ditto.	
42	"Samvád Purnachandrodaya "	...	Ditto	...	300	24th to 29th ditto.	
43	"Banga Vidyá Prakáshiká "	...	Ditto	...	500		
ENGLISH AND BENGALI.							
<i>Weekly.</i>							
44	"Dacca Gazette "	...	Dacca	...	.....	27th May 1889.	
HINDI.							
<i>Monthly.</i>							
45	"Darjeeling Mission ke Másik Sámachár Patrika."	...	Darjeeling	...	20	16th ditto.	
46	"Kshatriya Pratiká "	...	Patna	...	200		
<i>Weekly.</i>							
47	"Aryávarta "	...	Calcutta	...	1,500	18th ditto.	
48	"Behar Bandhu "	...	Bankipore	...	.....		
49	"Bhárat Mitra "	...	Calcutta	...	1,663		
50	"Sár Sudhánidhi "	...	Ditto	...	500	20th ditto.	
51	"Uchit Baktá "	...	Ditto	...	4,500		
52	"Hindi Samáchár "	...	Bhagulpore	...	1,000		
PERSIAN.							
<i>Weekly.</i>							
53	"Jám-Jahán-numá "	...	Calcutta	...	250	24th ditto.	
URDU.							
<i>Weekly.</i>							
54	"Aftal Alum Arrah "	...	Arrah	...	300		
55	"Akhbar Tusdiq-i-Hind "	...	Calcutta	...	...		
56	"Anis "	...	Patna	...	.....		
57	"Gauhur "	...	Calcutta	...	196		
58	"Sharaf-ul-Akbar "	...	Behar	...	150		
59	"Al Punch "	...	Bankipore	...	.....	13th & 20th May 1889.	
<i>Bi-weekly.</i>							
60	"Akhbar-i-darusaltanat "	...	Calcutta	...	340	26th May 1889.	
<i>Daily.</i>							
61	"Urdu Guide "	...	Calcutta	...	212		
URIA.							
<i>Monthly.</i>							
62	"Asha "	...	Cuttack	...	.....		
63	"Taraka and Subhavártá "	...	Ditto	...	.....		
64	"Pradíp "	...	Ditto	...	.....		
65	"Samyabadi "	...	Ditto	...	.....		
<i>Weekly.</i>							
66	"Utkal Dípiká "	...	Cuttack	...	444	11th ditto.	
67	"Balasore Samvad Váhika "	...	Balasore	...	205	9th ditto.	
68	"Urya and Navasamvád "	...	Ditto	...	600	8th ditto.	
PAPERS PUBLISHED IN ASSAM.							
BENGALI.							
<i>Fortnightly.</i>							
69	"Silchar "	...	Silchar	...	500	20th ditto.	
<i>Weekly.</i>							
70	"Paridarshak "	...	Sylhet	...	450		



## I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

**THE *Sahachar***, of the 22nd May, says that the Amir of Afghanistan has asked the Government of India to increase the subsidy given to him by eight lakhs of rupees. The Amir already gets 12 lakhs a year, and he wants to have it increased to 20 lakhs. Perhaps he will ask for 30 lakhs some time after. And considering that he gets anything he asks for, why should he not go on making demands perpetually? The Amir is being subsidised in the hope that when need arises, he will stop the progress of Russia towards this country. There are, however, many who think that in the hour of need the guns of the Amir will turn their mouths towards India. This may be true or not; but it does not look well to humour the Amir any longer. And what, after all, has become of the scientific frontier upon which so much money was spent?

**SAHACHAR,**  
May 22nd, 1889.

2. The same paper says that the public in this country do not believe the statement in the official Gazette that Burma is being gradually pacified. If there is anybody who could have effected the pacification of Burma, it is Sir Charles Bernard. As for the present Chief Commissioner, Sir Charles Crosthwaite, he seems to think that the oftener the gun and the hanging rope are called into requisition the more rapidly will the country settle down into a state of peace. Reference is then made to the letter in the *Indian Daily News*, written by an Anglo-Indian, on the subject of Burma and her dacoits, and it is remarked that the characterisation which the writer of that letter makes of the Chief Commissioner and of the officials under him is sufficient to excite the indignation even of the general public.

**SAHACHAR.**

If Burma had been in Europe, surely she would have been assisted in regaining her independence by some European power much in the same way as England assisted Spain in throwing off the yoke of France.

Reference is then made in terms of grave disapprobation to the indiscriminate passing of capital sentences by young and inexperienced judicial officers, and of the confirmation of such sentences by the Chief Commissioner by means of telegrams, the keeping of a Burmese woman as a mistress by a Sessions Judge, the woman being the Judge's own Peshkar's sister, and such like matters.

The fact is that Burma is far from being pacified. Even the women there have risen in rebellion against the English. And the rate at which the people are being killed will soon lead to the depopulation of the country. As for Lord Dufferin, who is directly responsible for these results, he has gone home adorned with the title, Marquis of Ava.

The oppression which Englishmen are committing in Burma in the name of peace may be compared to Russian oppression in Poland and the Bulgarian atrocities of Turkey.

It is hoped that the Government of India will soon put an end to this oppression, recall Mr. Crosthwaite, and appoint a man like Colonel Phayre in his place. The attention of Government is also drawn to the violation by the English officials of Burma of a circular prohibiting the keeping of Burmese women as mistresses.

3. The *Darus Saltanat*, of the 26th May, highly approves of the Lieutenant-Governor's proposal to open communications with the country of the Chittagong hill tribes in order that their raids into British territory may be promptly checked by a speedy transport of troops.

**DARUS SALTANAT,**  
May 26th, 1889.

Raids by Chittagong hill-tribes.

## II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

## (a)—Police.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI  
May 21st, 1889.

4. A correspondent of the *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 21st May, says that, on the 29th of April last, there was a dacoity at Ajhapur in the house of one Giris, of the oilman caste. Behari Lal Palit, a respectable resident of the village, was on the scene. Ajhapur being within the jurisdiction of Jamalpur thana, a head-constable from that thana came to investigate the case. Giris told the constable that he had recognised three or four of the dacoits who were of the *hari* caste and lived at Ajhapur. He also mentioned their names, but the head-constable did nothing in the matter. Thereupon the villagers sent an application to the Magistrate of the district, asking for a fresh enquiry. Then the Inspector of the thana came to enquire, stayed in the village for about one and a half hours, asked the villagers whether or not they had sent the application, and went away without doing anything. The villagers intend to apply to the Magistrate again. The Magistrate is asked to enquire into the matter.

SAHACHAR  
May 22nd, 1889.

5. The *Sahachar*, of the 22nd May, is glad to learn that the Government of India has asked for the opinions of the Provincial Governments on the subject of police reform, and says that it would have been better if the public also had been asked to give their opinion on the subject. The present police administration is not satisfactory. Under it the greater part of the time of a higher police officer is taken up in writing official papers and furnishing explanations, while the really important work of the department is neglected.

The offices of Deputy Inspector-General of Police, District Superintendent of police, and Assistant District Superintendent of Police should be abolished as being unnecessary. The practice of employing in the police service worthless scions of old European and Eurasian families should be discontinued; the salaries of police officers should be increased, and the service should be recruited from among men of education. It is true the introduction of these reforms will cost Government much money. But as in the case of the army, Government should not grudge the increase of expenditure that may be necessary.

SULABH SAMACHAR O.  
KUSHADAH,  
May 24th, 1889.

6. The *Sulabh Samachar o Kushadaha*, of the 24th May, has learnt from the Uriya newspapers, the *Utkal Dipika* and the *Uriya and Navasamvad*, that there is scarcity in many parts of Orissa. Poor people have been compelled by hunger to commit thefts and dacoities. In Jajpore coarse rice is selling at 14 seers per rupee and fine rice at 10 seers per rupee. The Jajpore correspondent of the *Utkal Dipika* says that the people cannot sleep for fear of thefts, dacoities, and fires. And as theft is impossible on account of such watchfulness, the thieves have hit upon a novel expedient for doing their wicked work, which is that they set fire to a house in a village and commit thefts when the villagers are busy putting out the fire.

Some boats carrying paddy were recently plundered by the people of Bhograi in the Balasore district. The writer has learnt from a friend, who has recently arrived from Balasore, that the boats were plundered in a state of desperation caused by hunger. It took the men a long time to carry the paddy from the boats into the village. In the meantime the police got scent of the affair and arrived on the spot. The police threatened the villagers, who replied that they preferred going to jail, where they would get food to eat, to starving as they were then doing. The police paid no heed

to this, and made a show as if they were going to fire upon the crowd. The men thought it was only empty threat, and did not desist. But when the police actually shot down two of their number, they ran away. At the request of the boatmen the police apprehended such of the villagers as they had carefully marked during the loot. But when the mahajan whom the paddy belonged was summoned, he came into Court and said that he had given away the paddy to the villagers. It is not known whether he said so from compassionate motives, or for the purpose of sparing himself the trouble and expense of conducting a suit in a place where he was a stranger. However that may be, it is certain that there is great distress in the village. And if the police has really killed two men in its endeavour to preserve the peace, the act is much to be regretted. The authorities should enquire.

BANGABASI,  
May 25th, 1889.

7. The *Bangabasi*, of the 25th May, does not agree with those who think that financial considerations prevent Government from reforming the police. The writer is of opinion that Government has no desire to reform the police, because it sees that with a reformed police it would not be able to keep the people in the state of perpetual dread in which the present police now keeps them. Police reform will be inconsistent with the first principle of English policy in India.

8. A correspondent of the same paper says that one Krishnadhan Ghosal, of Bali, has been robbed by five or six dacoits on the Kulpi road, near Gopalnagore, in the Diamond Harbour sub-division. The dacoits stripped him naked and severely beat him. A man has been shot down at Bibirhat within the Mathurapore thana, but the murderer has not yet been traced. A dacoity was committed a few days ago at Ramrampore, a village within one mile of the Diamond Harbour sub-division. The dacoits have not yet been traced.

BANGABASI.

9. The *Sanjivani*, of the 25th May, has learnt from a correspondent that Baboo Uma Charan Das, Sub-Inspector of Police, Tangail, is about to retire on pension. Baboo Uma Charan is a thoroughly honest officer, and has never taken bribes, though he has had ample opportunities of doing so in Tangail, where quarrels and affrays are of frequent occurrence. If Baboo Uma Charan's successor be not as honest a man as he is, there will be no end of police oppression in a place where lawlessness is so rampant. Many people are trying to get Baboo Uma Charan's post. And it is hoped that Mr. Giles, Deputy Inspector-General of Police, who knows Tangail thoroughly, will give the appointment to none but an honest man.

SANJIVANI,  
May 25th, 1889.

10. The same paper says that, according to orders of Government, dated the 16th October 1867 and the 14th August 1880, it is illegal to send coolies to Assam from the Madras Presidency. But coolie-recruiters are in the habit of disregarding those orders, and are often assisted by officers of Government in doing so. Some time ago a coolie agent of Calcutta, Hiralal by name, sent some coolies from Ganjam in the Madras Presidency to Assam, and though the editor of this paper had those coolies, while on their way to Assam, brought up before the Commissioner of Police, Calcutta, the latter took no steps to punish Hiralal. Nothing could be more shameful than this. It is hoped that Sir Stuart Bayley will enquire into the matter.

SANJIVANI.

11. The *Dacca Prakash*, of the 26th May, says that the right to the char at Marichpatti having formed a subject of dispute amongst the zemindars Brajendra Kumar Roy Chaudhuri, Srinath Roy and others,

DACCA PRAKASH,  
May 26th, 1889

Mr. Clarke, District Superintendent  
of Police, Dacca.

there was need for a police investigation at the char. In ordinary cases such investigations are conducted by subordinate police officers. But Mr. Clarke, District Superintendent of Police, Dacca, himself went to the char in a steamer and made an investigation there for four days. The steamer fare was eight hundred rupees. Who among the disputing zemindars paid this money? And could Mr. Clarke lawfully take it from him?

(b)—*Working of the Courts.*

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,  
May 21st, 1889.

Baboo Jadu Nath Basu, Deputy  
Magistrate of Cutwa.

12. A correspondent of the *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 21st May, says that it is the mukhtears practising in the Court of the Deputy Magistrate of Cutwa who supplied this paper with the charges against the Deputy Magistrate, which appeared in its last issue (see Report on Native Papers for the week ending 25th May, paragraph 7). But the correspondent knows for certain that the charges are not true, and also knows why the mukhtears, who, by the way, spoke ill of every other Deputy Magistrate who came to the sub-division, have preferred the charges. The editor remarks that his strictures against the Deputy Magistrate of Cutwa were based, not simply upon information supplied by the Cutwa mukhtears, but upon evidence derived from a different source, and that he has that evidence in his possession at the present moment.

SAMAYA,  
May 24th, 1889.

A case of failure of justice in the  
24-Pergunnahs.

13. The *Samaya*, of the 24th May, refers to the case of Lieutenant Francis *versus* Purna Chandra Roy Chaudhuri and Jogendra Nath Roy Chaudhuri, recently decided by the Sessions Judge of the 24-Pergunnahs (see Report on Native Papers for the week ending 25th May, paragraph 10), and remarks as follows:—

Instances of failure of justice like this are frequent under English rule. And it is a deep stain on that rule that whenever the complainant in a case is a European and the defendant a native of this country, the Judge almost always decides against the defendant. In his new novel, entitled *Sitaram*, Baboo Bankim Chandra Chatterji has shewn how the *Kazis* used to dispense justice under the Mahomedan rule. But let the just and civilised Englishmen, who denounce that rule, see that under their own rule it is something like *Kazi's* justice that is being dispensed everywhere. Such miscarriage of justice cannot be prevented if Government does not make an effort to put it down. It is therefore hoped that under the rule of Sir Stuart Bayley an attempt will be made to put it down. Government is specially requested not to let cases like this pass by without making enquiries into them.

SOM PRAKASH,  
May 27th, 1889

The Dacca defamation cases.

14. The *Som Prakash*, of the 27th May, says that the High Court has done a very improper thing by refusing to transfer the Dacca defamation cases. The consequences of the refusal are already manifest. The defendants have been ordered to attend court every day from 6-30 in the morning till final disposal. It is hoped that the attention of Government will be drawn to the matter.

SOM PRAKASH.

Sale of moveable property in execution of money decrees.

15. The same paper says that the existing practice, under which court peons can sell by auction in execution of money decrees moveable property worth Rs. 50 or less, is very objectionable, and should be resorted to in the case of those persons only who have no immovable property. As things now stand, the peon is often tempted to attach and sell property of far greater value than Rs. 50. And to effect his purpose, he has only to say that the price of the article which he intends to sell is below Rs. 50. Besides, as very few people care to be present at

these auction sales, it is the decree-holder who often purchases the property of the judgment-debtor at a nominal price, and the full amount of the decree not being satisfied, the judgment-debtor stands a chance of being again proceeded against in the Execution Department. These sales of moveable property are also considered to be very humiliating or disreputable by respectable men.

16. The *Dacca Gazette*, of the 27th May, is alarmed to hear that the Deputy Magistrate of Munshigunge entertains the notion that no man goes to a court of justice who has not suffered a real wrong. The performance of magisterial work under such a notion as this is calculated to produce much mischief in a place like Munshigunge, where the number of false suits, instituted from malicious motives, is very large.

The Deputy Magistrate of Munshigunge, in the district of Dacca.

DACCA GAZETTE,  
May 27th, 1889.

(d)—Education.

17. The *Charuvártá*, of the 20th May, says that about 4,500 students have been plucked in the Entrance Examination this year. It cannot be that there was an extraordinarily large number of bad boys only this year. But consider the effect of the plucking. Supposing the education of each Entrance candidate for one year costs Rs. 200, the education of the 4,500 plucked candidates for another year will cost nine lakhs of rupees. And who will be responsible for this loss of money? It is impossible to retain any respect for the Calcutta University much longer, and means should be therefore speedily adopted to put a stop to all irregularities in the management of the affairs of the University.

The last Entrance Examination.

CHARUVARTÁ,  
May 20th, 1889.

18. The *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 21st May, says that though the questions set at the last Entrance and F. A. Examinations were not very stiff, still the results of those examinations have been most disappointing. According to some, the results are due to the heartless manner in which the examiners examined the answer papers. And there can no doubt that the papers have been examined with unusual strictness this year. It is the duty of the University authorities to enquire into the matter.

The last Entrance and F. A. Examinations.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,  
May 21st, 1889.

19. The *Sulabh Samáchar o Kushadaha*, of the 24th May, says that the number of successful candidates in the Entrance Examination was never so small as this year. The subjects in which that examination is held are now more difficult than they were before, and if over and above this the examiners examine so strictly, the student-population will lose heart. It is said that many good students have been plucked this year because the examiners have been capricious in examining the answers. It is hardly necessary to observe that the examiners on whom the future of so many young men depends ought to be perfectly conscientious.

The last Entrance Examination.

SULABH SAMACHAR  
O KUSHADAH,  
May 24th, 1889.

20. The *Prajá Bandhu*, of the 24th May, has the following on the subject of the last Calcutta University Examinations:—

The last University Examinations.

The results of the last University Examinations are deplorable. But they are not due to shortcomings in the examinees. For while many intelligent and studious candidates have been plucked, many have passed with credit of whom it was never expected that they would pass even in the third division.

PRAJÁ BANDHU,  
May 24th, 1889.

It has been remarked in another paper that the examiners do not examine the answer papers carefully. It is rumoured that one of the

examiners at the last examinations reported that he had not got some answer papers, but on enquiry those very papers were found amongst the papers examined by him. All this shows carelessness on the part of examiners, and reflects discredit on the University. Formerly a certain degree of credit attached to the person who passed a University examination, no matter which, but now-a-days the passing of an examination is quite a matter of accident, and does not necessarily argue any merit or ability in the candidate who passes, and so the passed boy does not now enjoy the respect which the passed boy enjoyed in the earlier years of the University.

In England the passing of the Entrance or the Matriculation examination is a very easy affair. And even when the examination is stiff, not less than 50 per cent. pass. But things are very different in this respect in India.

Reference is next made to the large number of the candidates who have failed at the Entrance Examination, and it is remarked that though many of these failed students will again read for the Entrance Examination, a very large number of them will be compelled to give up their studies altogether, and some will even commit suicide in despair. Thus, it will be all over with many who, but for the highhandedness of the University, could have been ornaments of their society. There is much scope for reform in the affairs of the University, and if such reform is not taken in hand, both the country and society will fare very badly.

BANGABASI,  
May 25th, 1889.

21. The *Bangabasi*, of the 25th May, referring to the order of the Director of Public Instruction, forbidding the admission of boys above 14 years of age into

any class lower than the fourth class in Government schools without the permission of the local Inspector of Schools or of the Principal, asks, whether this is not an indication of rivalry between Government and private schools.

BANGABASI.

22. The same paper says that the fluctuations in the results of the examinations of the Calcutta University are of the wonderful nature of the tidal variations in rivers, and will not be accounted for by differences in the qualifications of the candidates in different years. Fluctuations due to that cause cannot be so startling. They cannot also be attributed to greater carelessness on the part of the heads of schools and colleges selecting and sending candidates for the examinations. The cause must, therefore, lie with the examiners. Examiners are generally very vain of their learning, and each has his own way of examining. To prevent mischief likely to arise from this source, head examiners have been appointed in the Entrance Examination. But, judging from results, it does not appear that the head examinership has been a success. So long as the capriciousness of the examiners is not checked, the results will not be satisfactory. The writer does not agree with those who think that the cause of the unsatisfactory nature of the results is to be found in the educational policy of Government. The head examiners in the Entrance Examination and all the examiners in the other examinations are mainly responsible for the unsatisfactory results of the University Examinations.

The last examinations of the Calcutta University.

SANJIVANI,  
May 25th, 1889.

A rule framed by the Director of Public Instruction.

23. The *Sanjivani*, of the 25th May, says that the rule recently framed by Sir Alfred Croft, Director of Public Instruction, under which no boy of 14 years of age will be admitted into any class lower than the fourth in any Government school, will have a salutary effect, inasmuch as it will prevent the corruption of the morals of little boys through their association with grown up boys.

SANJIVANI.

24. The same paper has the following on the subject of the last University Examinations :—  
The last University examinations.

As the examiners of the University are

frequently changed, the character of the examinations also changes from year to year. One year the examinations are stiff, and another year they are easy. Thus the candidate's chance of passing depends, in a great measure, on the whim or temperament of the examiners.

According to the *Indian Daily News* newspaper, the large failure at the examinations is due, not to the examiners, but to the practice of sending up to the examinations boys who have no chance of passing. But this view is not supported by a comparative examination of the results of the examinations for some years past. The following tabular statement shows the number of candidates who appeared at the Entrance Examination between the years 1880 and 1887, and the number of those who passed in those years :—

Year.			Number of candidates.	Number of candidates who passed.	Percentage of successful candidates.
1880	...	...	2,793	1,663	59.8
1881	...	...	2,937	1,409	48
1882	...	...	3,111	1,458	46.8
1883	...	...	3,591	1,785	49.7
1885	...	...	4,317	1,463	33.9
1886	...	...	4,393	1,337	30.4
1887	...	...	4,974	3,298	66.3

This shows that, while nearly 50 per cent. of candidates passed in the year 1883, the percentage of successful candidates in the year immediately following was not more than 34. Some may explain this by saying that, as a very large number of candidates was sent up in 1885, the number of unprepared candidates sent up must also have been large that year, and it was probably on that account that the result of 1885 was so unsatisfactory. But the following considerations will show that this is not the right explanation. In 1882 the number of candidates at the Entrance Examination was 3,111. In 1883 the number was 480 more, and the number in 1885 was only 726 in excess of that of 1882. Now, considering the ratio in which the number of candidates at the Entrance Examination increased in previous years, the increase in the number of candidates in 1885 does not appear to have been very large, and yet only 34 per cent. passed the Entrance Examination that year. Moreover, when it is considered that owing to the change made in the time of holding the examinations that year the candidates got extra time to prepare for the examination, the results of the examination must be pronounced to have been extremely miserable. Again, the number of candidates in 1886 was only 76 in excess of that which appeared in 1885; still the percentage of success that year was only 30. But the number of candidates in 1887 was 581 more than the number in the year 1886, and still the percentage of success in 1887 was so large as 66. The results of the two following years (1888 and 1889) again have been more and more unsatisfactory. All this shows that the theory of the *Indian Daily News* newspaper is based on fancy and not on facts. And by vilifying the candidates at the last Entrance Examination by calling them sons of wood-cutters and *bhistees*, the writer has simply shown what he himself is. It seems that the writer in the *Indian Daily News* is a Professor of a well-known College, who, seeing his own shortcomings as an Examiner exposed in the newspapers, has out of pure spite abused the candidates in the manner mentioned above.

But supposing that the unsatisfactory results of the Entrance Examination are due, as the *Indian Daily News* says, to the practice of sending up boys who are not fit to be sent up, where is the explanation of the fact that the results of the F. A. and B. A. Examinations too are satisfactory in one year and unsatisfactory in another? For, as the University authorities

themselves, and not the Professors and Principals of Colleges, determine the fitness of candidates to appear at these examinations, what is good explanation, according to the *Indian Daily News* in regard to the Entrance Examination, is no explanation whatever in regard to the F. A. and B. A. Examinations. The following tabular statement, giving the percentage of success at the F. A. and B. A. Examinations from 1880 to 1887, shows that no uniform system was followed in conducting these examinations :—

Year.			Percentage of success at the F. A. Examination.	Percentage of success at the B. A. Examination.
1880	...	...	40.5	35.1
1881	...	...	37.6	44
1882	...	...	34.3	29.3
1883	...	...	46.9	41
1884	...	...	49	47.5
1885	...	...	48.2	71.7
1886	...	...	52	52
1887	...	...	54	55.9

An analysis of the results of other examinations will lead to the same conclusion. It is, in fact, admitted on all hands, that the results of the University Examinations have been unsatisfactory for some years past. But while some would hold the examiners responsible for those results, others would lay the blame on the teachers, professors and candidates. It is difficult to say who are right. And it is therefore very desirable that the Government of India should appoint a Commission to enquire into the matter. It is the writer's conviction that a Commission, if appointed, will bring to light many mysteries in connection with these examinations, and the public will then know whether there is any foundation for the rumour so often heard that some of the examiners are in the habit of telling their own pupils the questions which they set at the examinations. But a Commission appointed by the University itself will do no good.

SOM PRAKASH,  
May 27th 1889.

25. The *Som Prakāsh*, of the 27th May, says that the number of graduates employed in the Education Department is not sufficiently large, and that the graduates who have succeeded in entering that Department are often denied promotion under the seniority rule and in consequence of the prevalence of nepotism and jobbery.

The undue favour shown to Mahomedan, European, and Eurasian candidates is next referred to, and the following cases are cited by way of illustration :—

- (1) Abdul Khair, who was in the fifth grade of the Subordinate Educational Service in 1879, has been at once promoted to the second grade of that service.
- (2). Mr. Bruhl, who was in the fourth grade of the Subordinate Educational Service in 1882, was in 1885 promoted to the third grade over the heads of many deserving men, such as Baboos Barada Prosad Ghose, Nakuleswar Banerjee, &c.

Lastly it is remarked that the offices of the Director of Public Instruction and Inspector of Schools, Presidency Circle, have become hot beds of jobbery and favouritism.

NAVAVIBHAKAR  
SADHARANI,  
May 27th, 1889.

26. The *Navavibhakar Sādhārani*, of the 27th May, says that 60, 80, and in some cases even 90, per cent. of the students, sent up to the last Entrance Examination from mofussil schools have passed. But no Calcutta school has been able to pass more than 22 per cent. How to explain this difference? Mofussil schools and teachers are by no means

better than those of Calcutta. The cause of the difference will, therefore, be found in the fact that schools are often opened in Calcutta in the way of trade or speculation, and that it is the first care of the proprietors of such schools to secure as many students as they can. There being too many schools in the town, there is among them a keen competition for students. The result is that the heads of such schools have to send up to the examination even those students who have no chance of passing lest they should go to some other school. But school-keeping has not yet been made into a money-making business in the mofussil, because there is no chance there of obtaining large numbers of students. The proprietors of the Calcutta schools can easily avoid the bad student difficulty by circulating a list of such students and agreeing among themselves not to admit them in their respective schools.

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

27. The *Aryāvarta*, of the 18th May, says that the existence of shops in the streets for the sale of cooked meat is injurious to health, and such shops should therefore be removed from the street-sides.

ARYAVARTA,  
May 18th, 1889.

Meat-shops and prostitutes in public streets.

Prostitutes should also be removed from the street-sides.

28. The *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 21st May, brings the following charges against the Burdwan Municipality :—

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,  
May 21st, 1889.

The Burdwan Municipality.

1. As the Chairman and Vice-Chairman often absent themselves from the Municipal Office, the work of that office is not properly done. And as the Vice-Chairman seldom goes out inspecting the town, the officers under him do not properly do their duty.

2. Last year the municipality employed two men on salaries of Rs. 15 and Rs. 10, respectively, for performing some new work. But it is now rumoured that those two men are now doing ordinary office work. If they have nothing but ordinary office work to do, why were they employed on a different plea? And cannot the ordinary office work of the municipality be done without those two men?

3. The municipality, it is said, often connives at the violation of the municipal law and of the municipal bye-laws by influential men.

4. It has been decided in a law court that there has been real encroachment on a public road. But the municipality has notwithstanding taken no steps in this connection.

29. The *Sahachar*, of the 22nd May, refers to the large increase of the house-tax by the Baraset Municipality, and says that this increase, which is so keenly

SAHACHAR,  
May 22nd, 1889.

The Baraset Municipality.

felt, would not have been necessary if the Municipal Commissioners had not thought of lighting the town, laying out a garden, and setting up a fountain. Baraset is a poor municipality, and should not have indulged in luxuries of this kind.

(g)—*Railways and communications including canals and irrigation.*

30. The *Gramvāsi*, of the 19th May, says that in this year of scarcity it would be to the advantage of every class of people if the District Board of Howrah

GRAMVASI,  
May 19th, 1889.

Roads in the Uluberiah sub-division of the Howrah district.

were to sanction a larger sum of money for the construction and repair of roads. The authorities are requested to sanction the construction of a road from Samaspur to Kanthaldah as a branch road to the existing main road from Noontia Bantool in the direction of Shampur Makrapathara; for, in the absence of such a branch road, the students of the Samaspur school and numerous other persons have to wade waist-deep in water in going to or coming back from Samaspur.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,  
May 21st, 1889.

31. A correspondent of the *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 21st May, says that persons travelling in the hot season along the road from Memari to Chakdighi in the district of Burdwan are often put to great inconvenience in consequence of the scarcity of water in the villages on both sides of the road, and asks the District Board of Burdwan, as a remedial measure, to construct bunds for the purpose of preventing the water which in the rainy season accumulates in the villages within three miles from Memari, the point where the road commences, from running away. He also asks the Board to excavate tanks in places alongside the road where no supply of rain water can be utilised for travellers, and to plant shady trees on both sides of the road.

The jungle on both sides of the road near the bridge of Chaubera should be cleared and a police outpost established there. The spot is now very dangerous to travellers, by reason of its harbouring highway robbers.

SOM PRAKASH,  
April 27th, 1889.

32. The *Som Prokash*, of the 27th May, calls attention to the irregularity of the steamer service in connection with the Diamond Harbour Railway line. The khalasis in charge of the steamer start it at their pleasure, and not at the appointed hours. They say that tidal necessities lead to unpunctuality. But this is not true. Messrs. Hoare, Miller and Company's steamer, which is much larger, acknowledges no tidal necessity. The real explanation is that as most of the serangs and khalasis of the steamer live at Gewankhali start the steamer before the appointed hour with the object of going home earlier. On the 21st May last the steamer started from the Tumlook station at 8½ A.M., just one and a half hours before the appointed time, and the writer, who expected to come by the steamer, could not get it, and was consequently at his destination one day later than he had intended, and suffered much pecuniary loss. Government should enquire into the matter.

(h.)—General.

RUNGPORE DIK PRA-  
KASH,  
May 9th, 1889.

33. The correspondent of the *Rungpore Dikprakash* of the 9th May, says that the acquisition of land for public purposes is always attended with some scandalous proceeding or other. Many private lands, houses and trees are situated within the strip of land which will be required for the proposed road from Gaibanda to Ghoraghat in the district of Rungpore. But it is said that the owners will obtain no compensation for those properties of theirs. It is highly unjust that the people should be required to give lands for the construction of roads, and pay the road cess at the same time. Why should not they obtain compensation when the law allows such compensation? Proceedings like this show that laws are framed by the English Government only for the purpose of deluding the people.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,  
May 21st, 1889.

34. A correspondent of the *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 21st May, complains of irregularities in connection with the mail service in Bankura. As the condition of the road from Ranigunge to Bankura is miserable and the mail coaches of R. C. Shaw and Company are old and dilapidated, and as drunken drivers are frequently employed to drive the coaches, the mail coaches often break down on the way, injuring passengers and delaying the mail service. The Magistrate of Burdwan should enquire.

SAHACHAR,  
May 22nd, 1889.

35. The *Sahachar*, of the 22nd May, says that it is high time that the people of this country should give up the fond hope hitherto cherished by them, that they would receive justice at the hands of the India's duty by the Government of India.

British Parliament. The clearest proof has of late been received that there is very little chance of Parliament interfering in Indian matters. The other day, Mr. Maclean, M. P., formerly Editor of the *Bombay Gazette*, said in the most explicit manner that England holds India, not for the benefit of Indians, but for the interest and glory of Englishmen, and that in all cases in which the interests of Englishmen will clash with those of the natives of India, the former should receive the foremost consideration. And not a man in Parliament had the courage to say a word of protest against this. And it is all the more pitiful that there is truth in what Mr. Maclean has said. The injustice of retaining the silver duties has been repeatedly pointed out by the Press in this country, and yet Mr. Goschen retains those duties, and Parliament has nothing to say in the matter. Look at the attempt of the merchants of Manchester to force a factory law upon India, and mark that that attempt is meeting with no opposition in Parliament. Of course it is not meant that the efforts of just men like Messrs. Fawcett and Bradlaugh on behalf of the people of India must be abortive. What is meant is that the efforts of a few just men will not achieve much for the people of this country. What, then, should be the duty of the people of this country? Why, their duty is simply to stand by the Government of India, and assist it in fighting out its battles on behalf of this country. It is true that the Governor-General of India is gradually lapsing into the inconsequential position of an officer under the Secretary of State for India, and that the real Government of India is gradually passing away from the hands of the Governor-General to those of the Secretary of State. But the Secretary of State will yet have to show due deference to the views of the Governor-General if he finds all India united in support of those views. The Governor-General is already a powerless man, and if the people of India do not give him their support, a grave calamity will befall the country.

The people of India should also give up the idea of appealing to Parliament against the Government of India. For, considering the present temper of Parliament, such appeals have not the least chance of being decided in a strictly impartial spirit.

36. The same paper is of opinion that there is at present no necessity for the proposed factory law in India. The labourers in this country fully understand their

SAHAOCHAR,  
May 22nd, 1889.

Factory legislation in India.

own interest. They are not compelled, like coolies in the tea gardens, to work for any fixed period of time. To work or not to work depends on their own free will. They also get sufficient remuneration for their work. Where is, then, the necessity for interfering between labourers and employers in India? If it be said that the labourers in the Indian factories being over-worked, special legislation is required for their protection, the plainest answer will be, what business have the merchants of Manchester to meddle in the matter? If they want to see people not disabled by over-work, let them exert themselves to improve the condition of the labourers in the coal mines of England, and let them teach temperance and providence to the English labourer, who spends his weekly earnings on intoxicating drinks, and while throwing flesh meat to the dog kicks his wife if she asks anything from him. In short, before being kind to the poor of India, let them be kind to the wives and children of the poor in their own country. India is a poor country. But her people nevertheless do not refuse handfuls of rice to the beggar, who never dies of starvation, except in times of scarcity and famine. The people of India do not want England's help in improving their health. But are labourers in factories the only over-worked people in India? Are there not in this country millions of tillers of the soil who labour night and day for their daily bread, and how is it that there are none in England who even think of doing anything to alleviate their misery?

The Ministry perfectly understands the trick which the merchants of Manchester are playing, but it lacks the courage to speak the truth.

It is fortunate for this country that the Government of India knows the exact value of Manchester's pity for the Indian factory labourer, and it is a matter for rejoicing that Lord Cross has accepted the views of that Government in this matter. The merchants of Manchester want to destroy the promising cloth manufacture of India, and Government will commit a serious political blunder if it sides with them.

SURABHI-O-PATAKA,  
May 23rd, 1889.

37. The *Surabhi o Patáká*, of the 23rd May, is exceedingly glad that the Inland Emigrants' Health Act has been passed, and thus criticises the draft rules framed under that Act:—Under the rules in

Draft rules under the Inland Emigrants' Health Act.

question, the duty of inspecting coolie depôts has been entrusted to Magistrates and to police officers above the rank of Sub-Inspectors. Now this arrangement will do no good. For the Magistrate, busy with his multifarious work, will hardly find time for his new work. As for police officers, the public have no confidence in them, and they often neglect their work. There ought to be honorary Inspectors for inspection work, selected from among Municipal Commissioners, members of District and Local Boards, passed students of the Medical College, and missionary gentlemen. This paper cannot approve the proposal made by a contemporary that a special staff of paid Inspectors should be appointed to enforce compliance with the rules. If such Inspectors are to be paid, they should not be paid by Government. For it is not right that tea-planters and owners of coolie depôts should only make money, whilst Government spends money in order to put down their oppression and lawlessness. All costs, including the salaries of all officers, from the Embarkation Agent down to the ordinary peon, which Government will incur in giving effect to the rules should be defrayed from the Inland Labour Transfer Fund, and by levying upon the owners of coolie depôts a tax per head of coolies challaned.

Fines will not be an adequate punishment for breaches of the sanitary regulations. There should be imprisonment as well.

SURABHI-O-PATAKA.

38. The same paper has learnt from a contemporary that, on the retirement of Mr. Justice Romesh Chunder Mitra, a Mahomedan Judge will be appointed to the Calcutta High Court. Now this paper

A Mahomedan Judge in the Calcutta High Court.

will be really glad to see a Mahomedan on the bench of the High Court. But the question whether a Mahomedan will be appointed to a Judgeship of that Court has been already settled by the appointment of Dr. Gurudas, in spite of the opposition of the Chief Justice and the Government of Bengal, who were for appointing Mr. Amir Ali. The principle underlying Dr. Gurudas' selection was that in making appointments to high offices the point to be considered is ability only, and not nationality. And will this principle be now set aside? Will Lord Lansdowne succumb to the pressure which is likely to be put upon him by the Chief Justice and the Lieutenant-Governor, and give the vacant Judgeship to a Mahomedan, ignoring the claims of Hindu candidates possessing far greater abilities than Mr. Amir Ali.

SAMAYA,  
May 24th, 1889.

39. The *Samaya*, of the 24th May, is glad that all the Provincial Governments have declared themselves against the proposed factory legislation. But Lord Reay

Factory legislation in India.

has proposed that boys and female labourers in Indian factories should be given a holiday every Sunday, a proposal which does not commend itself to the writer. For as factory labourers in this country are paid their wages for every day they work, and not by the month, it is the labourers, and not the

owners of factories, who will suffer if Lord Reay's proposal is carried into effect. And if they are paid by the month, the number of days they will work in each month will be taken into consideration by their employers in fixing the amount of their salaries. So that, in any case, it is the labourers, and not the factory owners, who will suffer.

40. The *Sanjivani*, of the 25th May, is astonished to learn that Government has suspended Baboo Balaram Mullick, Subordinate Judge of Pubna, for his having, on the occasion of the last Easter

Baboo Balaram Mullick, Subordinate Judge of Pubna.

holidays, left the station without the permission of the Judge. The writer cannot believe that the government of Sir Steuart Bayley will punish the Subordinate Judge so heavily for so light an offence. It appears, however, from the *Calcutta Gazette* that somebody has been appointed in place of Balaram Baboo, and the news of his suspension may therefore after all be true. And if true, the writer will like to know whether or not the Baboo has been guilty of any other and graver offence. For, if leaving the station without the permission of the Judge during a public holiday be Balaram Baboo's only offence, then the question will arise whether he is the first offender in this respect, and whether or not Judicial officers of a higher status than the Subordinate Judge are occasionally guilty of the same offence.

SANJIVANI,  
May 25th, 1889.

41. The same paper thanks Government for having appointed Baboo Prutala Chandra Chatterjee to a Judgeship of the Lahore Chief Court, and says that it would have been more glad if instead of a Bengali a Punjabi would have been appointed to the post. But as no Punjabi could be found fit for the post, Government has acted very properly in giving the post to a native of Bengal.

Baboo Prutala Chandra Chatterjee  
as a Judge of the Lahore Chief Court.

SANJIVANI.

42. The *Navavibhakar Sadharani*, of the 27th May, says that free trade is beneficial to Englishmen, but ruinous to Indians. Under this free trade system the food-grains of this country are being

The free trade policy of Government.

exported to foreign countries, and the result is that the Indians themselves cannot enjoy the fruits of their own labour, and have to die of starvation in times of scarcity. On account of this export of food-grains, the Indians have also to live on insufficient food all the year round. This is a deplorable condition of things, but Government takes no notice of it. Instead of removing the chronic distress of the country by placing a partial check upon the export of food-grains by the imposition thereon of a heavy export duty, Government contents itself with affording some relief to the people when their distress becomes unusually severe. Export of food grains is, indeed, stopped in times of famine, but on such occasions export of food-grains would stop of itself on account of their high prices, and no intelligent man should give credit to Government for stopping their export. The imposition of a heavy export duty on food-grains is calculated to bring in revenue to Government, and at the same time to diminish the unnatural export of those grains. But this will conflict with the interests of Englishmen, and the Government of India can never have the courage to injure the interests of Englishmen.

NAVAVIBHAKAR  
SADHARANI,  
May 27th, 1889.

But is it not the duty of the English Government to promote the welfare of its millions of Indian subjects even by sacrificing in some measure its own interest? The Government is not an out and out follower of the free trade policy. It keeps in its own hands the monopoly of many trades, such as the salt and opium trades. It may be argued that the salt and opium monopolies are a source of profit to Government. But who shall say that an export duty on food-grains will not also be a source of profit to Government? Government knows that it will be a source of profit to it, but it

cannot impose the duty because such duty will be prejudicial to the interests of Englishmen. Government perhaps is not also fully aware of the extent of the hardship which is caused to the people of this country by the free export of food-grains. If it had known it, it could not have followed its present policy; for no Government can venture to rule in utter disregard of the interests of its subjects.

NAVAVIBHAKAR  
SADHARANI,  
May 27th, 1889.

43. The same paper will be glad at the advancement of Syud Amir Ali whom it regards as a friend of the Hindus, and who is first in learning among the Mussulmans. But the writer cannot recommend him for a Judgeship of the High Court, because he is not a representative of the whole Mahomedan community. It is rumoured that Mr. Justice Romesh Chandra Mitra will soon retire, and Mr. Amir Ali will be appointed in his place. Although the appointment of a Mussulman Judge in the High Court is desirable, the writer will not approve of the appointment of Mr. Amir Ali as such Judge. There will be another objection to such an appointment. It has been settled that Native Judges on the Appellate Side of the High Court should be selected from among Pleaders or Judicial officers, and this has been, as a matter of fact, done up to this time. Mr. Amir Ali's appointment will involve a violation of this principle.

NAVAVIBHAKAR  
SADHARANI.

44. The same paper says that Lord Lansdowne's reply to the petition of the Manchester mill-owners is sure to wound the philanthropic susceptibilities of those gentlemen. The writer is very glad, however, at the Viceroy's plain refusal to grant their prayer. Lord Lansdowne is sure to earn glory if in ruling the country he takes such account of the circumstances of this country.

SOM PRAKASH,  
May 27th, 1889.

45. The *Som Prakash*, of the 27th May, says that, after having examined for six months the working of the Bengal Secretariat Offices, Mr. Risley has come to the conclusion that there are in those offices three unnecessary chief clerkships, each carrying a salary of Rs. 567 per month. Mr. Risley did not find a single letter drafted by any one of these chief clerks. And it is to be regretted that after this expression of opinion on the part of Mr. Risley, Sir Steuart Bayley has ruled that clerks drawing salaries of 100 rupees and upwards should be considered higher officers and be strong in correspondence work. The Lieutenant-Governor is requested to carefully consider the views of Mr. Risley on the subject of the working of the Secretariat Offices before applying himself to their reform.

SOM PRAKASH.

46. The same paper draws attention to the adulteration of sugar, and asks Government to put it down by an Act of the Legislature.

SOM PRAKASH.

47. The same paper says that there is no longer any necessity for keeping Chota Nagpore, the Sonthal Pergunnahs, Assam and portions of Orissa in the category of non-regulation provinces. The non-regulation system involves oppression and bad administration, because it gives almost unlimited powers to local officers.

If the object of Government in continuing the existing system in the provinces named above be not to raise money by increased taxation, then it behoves it to put an end to the system without delay.

## IV.—NATIVE STATES.

48. The *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 21st May, says that, according to some Anglo-Indian newspapers, the Maharajah of Cashmere is satisfied with the arrangements which have been recently made for the government of his State. But the fact is that no other course was open to the Maharajah than submitting to those arrangements with apparent satisfaction. Might constitutes right in this world, and what the strong man does the weak man must bow to if he would not lose everything. What would have been the result if the Maharajah had protested against the arrangements? Why, his very title of Maharajah would probably have been taken away from him. If there had been any chance of the Maharajah's obtaining justice by appealing against the decision of the Government of India in this matter, this paper would have counselled him to prefer such an appeal. But unfortunately the decisions of the Foreign Office in matters connected with the Native States are final and unalterable. In the days of the Company appeals lay to Parliament against the unjust acts of the Governor-General. But that course is scarcely open now.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,  
May 21st, 1889.

49. The *Dacca Gazette*, of the 27th May, says that the object of those Anglo-Indians who had been complaining of misgovernment in Cashmere and recommending the deposition of the Maharajah has been now gained. Cashmere will be now governed by a Council of Regency under the direction of the Resident. The Maharajah will be Maharajah only in name, and his position will be in reality inferior to that of even a common subject. Cashmere will probably be annexed in another two or three years on the pretext that it has not been well governed by the Council of Regency, and that its administration must therefore be undertaken by the Government of India. No one ever dreamt that the Viceroy would stand against the Maharajah of Cashmere.

DACCA GAZETTE,  
May 27th, 1889.

## V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

50. The *Sár Sudhānidhi*, of the 30th May, says that the relief works opened by Government in the country are now nearly completed, but the distress is increasing. The export of food-grains has not been stopped.

SAR SUDHANIDHI,  
May 30th, 1889.

51. The *Surabhi o Pátaká*, of the 23rd May, refers to the distress in the Diamond Harbour subdivision, and says that it will not do now to look up to Government alone for help. The people of the country should themselves come forward to assist their distressed brethren. They should not think their duty done merely by expressing sympathy with the sufferers. They should render them substantial help.

SURABHI-O-PATAKA,  
May 23rd, 1889.

52. The *Prajá Bandhu*, of the 24th May, says that from what it has learned from its Diamond Harbour correspondent about the distress in that subdivision it has reason to believe that if timely relief is not sent, there will be a great calamity in the country.

PRAJA BANDHU,  
May 24th, 1889.

The Lieutenant-Governor's attention has been called to the distress, and the Commissioner of the Presidency Division has been asked to enquire into it. It is very necessary that this inquiry should be proceeded with at once. For inquiry will be absolutely useless if people die of starvation before it is commenced.

The Hari Sabha at Gopalnagar is collecting money for the relief of the distressed people, and has made an appeal to the public on the subject. There can be no doubt that it is the duty of the public to respond to this call for help.

Some of the distressed places are within the estates of Raja Peary Mohan Mukharji of Utterpara and Baboo Peary Mohan Raya of Calcutta. Some of the ryots have been unable to pay rent, and these virtuous zemindars are instituting legal proceedings against their famine-stricken ryots to recover arrears from them!

It is no wonder that Raja Peary Mohan should do so, for, as people say, the son often inherits at least a tithe of the virtues of his father. But how is Peary Mohan Raya, who is the grandson of the illustrious Ram Mohan Raya, behaving so cruelly towards his famished ryots?

BANGABARI,  
May 25th, 1889.

53. The *Bangabasi*, of the 25th May, says that the condition of the people is very bad in the Contai subdivision of the Midnapore district. Government has sanctioned the construction of a road from Balighai to Choumouk in order to afford relief to the distressed people. The road will afford some relief, but will not touch the root of the evil.

BANGABARI.

54. The same paper says that the officers who have been directed by the Lieutenant-Governor to make enquiries about the distress in Diamond Harbour should direct their attention to the following points:—

Distress in the Diamond Harbour subdivision.

- (1) The quantity of crops which has grown in that part during the last two or three years.
- (2) The condition of the generality of people in that part, and what portion of the population in that part are cultivators.
- (3) On what condition the mahajans lend corn to the ryots.
- (4) What other causes have brought about the present distress.
- (5) How the evil can be remedied.
- (6) How long the present state of things is likely to continue.

There are many other points on which enquiries are necessary, but enquiries on the points mentioned here will set many matters right. Enquiries in the subdivisional head-quarters and in the mofussil thana houses will not, however, do. If, again, the ryots are interrogated roughly, true answers will not be elicited. The inquiry should be conducted in a spirit of sympathy with the suffering people. The *aman* paddy is the only abundant crop in the Diamond Harbour subdivision, but that crop will not grow until the expiry of another six months. The officers should therefore bear in mind that the situation is really critical.

BANGABARI.

55. The same paper says that the distress in North Behar is increasing rather than diminishing. The hopes awakened by the visit of the Lieutenant-Governor have gradually vanished. The Lieutenant-Governor counted upon an abundant outturn of the *rabi* crop, but the *rabi* has not been satisfactory. If there had been a good mango crop people could have somehow managed to live out the month of Jaistha. The ryots thus see no present or near chance of the alleviation of their distress. The construction of the proposed railways as a relief work has not been commenced. The reports regarding the condition of Behar, received by the writer from friends on whom he can rely, have alarmed him. There is no time to be lost. If there is no money in the Government treasury, the Lieutenant-Governor should appeal for public help.

Distress in North Behar.

SANJIVANI,  
May 25th, 1889.

56. A correspondent of the *Sanjivani*, of the 25th May, apprehends distress in the Tangail subdivision. For want of timely rain seeds were not sown till the end of the month of Baisakh, and before they began to sprout *beels* and

Distress in Tangail.

khals were rapidly filled up with rain water. Hailstorms have greatly damaged the *til* and other crops. Poor people are in great distress.

SANJIVANI,  
May 25th, 1889.

57. The same paper says that the present distress in the Diamond Harbour subdivision is the result of an unprecedented failure of the crops last year within the jurisdiction of the thanas of Bankipore, Devipore, Kulpi, Mathurapore and Hajipore in that subdivision. The people are mortgaging their mal or ticca lands.

1. *Extent of the distress.*—Some are getting only one meal a day, some one meal in two days, and some one meal in three days. The writer of this article has travelled through several places within the subdivision, and has seen people living upon the seeds of dates and *hentels* (a kind of wild fruit) and boiled seeds of tamarind. Of course the number of those who have been reduced to such extremity is very small compared with the total population of the subdivision. The distress is unbearable among the women who lived by husking paddy. And instances are known in which men, unable to see the distress of their dear and near relations, have forsaken them and gone nobody knows where. Those who live from hand to mouth, and those agriculturists who have no stores of grain, are in great distress. The families of these classes of people present a most deplorable spectacle. The children are writhing in the pain of unsatisfied hunger, the milk in the breasts of the mothers has dried up, and they (the mothers) are weeping at the sight of their famished children, whom they cannot expect to keep alive long.

2. *Has any death from starvation yet occurred?*—Having read in some newspapers that one Nilamani Das had died from starvation, the writer of the article instituted an enquiry into the matter. According to the police report on the case, Nilamani had been ailing for a long time, but he was in easy circumstances, as is proved by the fact that his son spent 25 rupees at his *sradh*. What the writer has ascertained in regard to Nilamani by means of a very careful inquiry is as follows:—

Nilamani was a medical man by profession. He lived at Ramnagar, within the jurisdiction of the thana Mathurapore. In consequence of the failure of the crops, Nilamani's practice fell off, and from the month of Bhadra last he lived by selling his household utensils. He could not get food every day. He observed the *ekadasi* fast on the 1st of Chaitra last, which was a Wednesday. He took a slight refreshment on the evening of that day. He ate boiled rice on the following Thursday and Friday. And on Saturday, unable to bear starvation any longer, he left his house at 12 noon and went to seek for practice, and when at a little distance from his house, was suddenly seized with a pain in the stomach. Thereupon he was brought home by his brother and treated by one doctor and one kabiraj, and he died at 4 o'clock next day. His *sradh* ceremony cost his son only 3 or 3½ rupees, which had to be begged for. If the Deputy Magistrate holds an enquiry on the spot into this case, he will see how far reliable the police report on this case is.

Having heard that at Chaukitola, a place within the jurisdiction of thana Bankipore, two persons, unable to bear starvation, had committed suicide by hanging themselves, the writer went to that place to enquire. There he learnt that only one man attempted to commit suicide. As people in some places are eating food unfit for the human stomach, it is not unlikely that many of them should die of fever or bowel-complaints. The writer has actually seen a man suffering from an attack of fever eating a water melon for want of any other food. And if this man dies, the police is sure to report that the man died of fever and bowel-complaints, and that distress has had nothing to do with his death.

3. *Have any steps been taken to remove the distress?*—The answer is that, up to this time, no such steps have been taken. In some places roads are being metalled and khals are being excavated. And it cannot be denied that the labourers engaged in these works have been benefited. But as the remuneration which they get is very small, they cannot help their starving families with their earnings. The writer has heard from a reliable source that the Deputy Magistrate of the Diamond Harbour subdivision has fixed the remuneration for 1,000 feet of earthwork, including polish, at Rs. 1-10, that neither the dafadar nor the contractor will have any share in this remuneration, and that the labourers are to be paid in cash. But on enquiry he has learnt that in many instances the wishes of the Deputy Magistrate have not been given effect to. The writer has collected the following information bearing on this point:—

- (a) Nayandi Sheikh of Chandipore and two others were employed in road-making work. It appears from the papers in their possession that they did 5,895 feet of earthwork, and that the rate fixed for such work, including polish, was Rs. 1-4. But they have received only Rs. 5. There has yet been no settlement of accounts with them.
- (b) Kailas Sardar of Chandipore and five others, also employed in road-making work. Of the earthwork done by them, 12,985 feet have been measured and 4,000 feet remain still unmeasured. They have received in all Rs. 8. When they were engaged they were told that they would be paid at the rate of Rs. 1-8. But their dafadar, whose name is Dwarika Gayen, is now offering to pay them at the rate of Rs. 1-4. They have refused to accept this rate.

Many other persons had similar stories to tell, but they were scolded into silence by Sarvesvara Halidar.

Whether Sarvesvara had any motive in thus scolding them is not known. He said that the rate for the excavation of the khal at Dowlutapore was Rs. 1-8, and that for the making of the road in Chandipore was Rs. 1-4, and that the Sub-Deputy Collector has already paid to the dafadar Rs. 117-3 $\frac{3}{4}$  as remuneration for the labourers employed on those two works. But the poor labourers have not yet received their money. It is hoped that the Deputy Magistrate will make an enquiry into this matter. Besides instituting relief measures, the Deputy Magistrate has done another good thing: he has caused *boro* paddy to be cultivated within the subdivision. If the cultivators had properly watered the *boro* crop in time the present distress might have been avoided. The Deputy Magistrate deserves thanks for this.

4. *What is to be done now.*—Despite all efforts to put it down, the distress will develop into famine if the next harvest fails. It is now time to sow for the next harvest. But the agriculturists are absolutely unprepared to commence agricultural operations.

Some of them have sold their stocks of seed, and others their agricultural cattle. But if assisted with money they can yet commence work. But who is to lend them money? Under the circumstances, Government ought to advance them money on the security of their lands. But these loans will not meet the requirements of all classes of people, specially of those women who live by husking paddy. These latter should be given paddy to husk. If these two means are adopted, there will be no necessity for distributing corn.

5. *How to prevent famine in future.*

- (1) Places like the Diamond Harbour subdivision, where only one crop is grown in the year, are very liable to be visited by scarcity and famine.

It is therefore the duty of the Agricultural Department of Government to see if other crops can be grown in such places.

(2) Crops fail in some instances from obstruction to drainage caused by railways and roads, and in some instances from the encroachment of salt-water. It is therefore desirable that steps should be taken to remove drainage obstructions wherever it exists, and that sluice gates should be constructed for the free exit of salt water from fields liable to the encroachment of such water.

58. The Nawabgunge correspondent of the *Dacca Prakash*, of the 26th May, says that for want of timely rain sowing operations in the villages within the jurisdiction of the Nawabgunge thana were postponed till the end of the month of Baisakh. And no sooner were those operations commenced, than the fields were suddenly covered with water. The crops in the low lands have been totally destroyed, and paddy is being sown in fields ordinarily reserved for plantains. The fields at Kasimpore, Srinagar, Nayanagar, Nayabari, Ponkonda, Ayla and other places within the jurisdiction of the Nawabgunge thana are all submerged. Rice is selling at Rs. 3 per maund. The *rabi* crop was deficient for want of rain. The prices of pulses and kitchen vegetables are high. Fear of incurring the displeasure of their superiors prevents the local police officers from reporting these things. The Magistrate is asked to personally enquire into the condition of the crops in these villages, and to take timely measures to avert distress and famine.

DACCA PRAKASH,  
May 26th, 1889.

59. The *Dainik o Samachar Chandrika*, of the 27th May, says that Ganjam is in the lowest stage of starvation, and yet the Anglo-Indian newspapers and their correspondents say that there is no famine there, but only distress. According to Englishmen there can be no famine where there is no depopulation. The Deccan famine was called a famine because 60 lakhs of people died in it. There is famine in Behar. But Government is there playing the part of the physician who gives only water to the man in high fever in order to allay his thirst without giving medicines for the fever itself. In Diamond Harbour it is still making a diagnosis of the disease. But if the patient dies before the diagnosis is completed, when will medicines be given?

DAINIK O SAMACHAR  
CHANDRIKA,  
May 27th, 1889.

#### VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

60. A correspondent of the *Rungpore Dikprakash*, of the 9th May, is very glad that the Magistrate of the district wishes to remove scarcity of water in Rungpore by re-excavating old tanks and wells and by excavating new ones. There are not rivers and large tanks in all places in Rungpore, and the water of the tanks which do exist is very foul. The people of the district have therefore to depend mainly on wells for their supply of water, and wells it should be observed, are not plentiful in many places. The want is particularly felt in market-places, in most of which there is only one well which is insufficient for the requirements of the large number of people who gather there. In some places, water is not to be found within six or seven cosses. There are sufficient roads in Rungpore. The District Board can now therefore give its attention exclusively to the construction of wells.

RUNGPORE DIK  
PRAKASH,  
May 9th, 1889.

61. The *Charuvarta*, of the 20th May, says that it is surprising that Mr. Phillips who is a District Magistrate, should not have thought it necessary, when going to construct a bridge, to take the consent of the owner of the site on

CHARUVARTA,  
May 20th, 1889.

Mr. Phillips.

which the bridge was to be constructed. Like Alexander Selkirk in Cowper's poem, Mr. Phillips perhaps thinks that he is the monarch of all he surveys.

CHARUVARTA,  
May 20th, 1889.

62. The same paper says that the tornado which recently passed over several villages in the Tangail sub-division of the Mymensingh district has destroyed many houses and hopes that the District Magistrate will make enquiries and submit a report to Government on the subject.

HINDU RANJIKA,  
May 22nd, 1889.

63. The *Hindu Ranjika*, of the 22nd May, has an article criticising Mr. Phillips' letter in the *Englishman*.

HINDU RANJIKA.

64. The same paper says that Mr. Phillips was in Calcutta at the time of the hearing of Rajah Jogendranath's motion in the High Court, and has not yet returned to the district. Some say that he is in Calcutta, and some say that he is in Darjeeling. The Civilian who is to act for him, however, came to the head-quarters of the district three days ago. No Magistrate has been found before this to absent himself from his district in this way.

SURABHI-O-PATAKA,  
May 23rd, 1889.

65. The *Surabhi o Patáká*, of the 23rd May, praises Mr. Maclean's outspokenness in the following passage in his recent article in the *Asiatic Quarterly Review*:—"Let us have the courage to repudiate the pretence which foreigners laugh at, and which hardly deceives ourselves that we keep India only for the benefit of the people of that country, and in order to train them for self-government. We keep it for the sake of the interests and the honour of England, and the only form of government by which we can continue to hold it in subjection is that of a despotism," and remarks that if all Englishmen were outspoken like Mr. Maclean, the eyes of many people in this country would be opened.

SULABH SAMACHAR-  
O-KUSHDAHA,  
May 24th, 1889.

66. The *Sulabha Samáchar o Kushadaha*, of the 24th May, says that the officials appear to be bitterly hostile to native papers, and to be anxious to harass and punish them. Everybody knows how much the *Chattal Gazette* had to suffer on account of its having fallen into the bad graces of the officials. The following fact also betrays this feeling of hostility on the part of the officials against native papers. Baboo Gobinda Chandra Raya, one of the defendants in the defamation case against the *Garib*, applied for his release on bail, and produced two respectable mukhtears as securities. But the District Superintendent of Police, Mr. Clarke, refused to accept the security.

The native papers are the friends of the English Government, and they are still in the stage of infancy. If, under these circumstances, the officials regard them as the enemies of Government instead of reproving them in a friendly spirit for any objectionable writing that may be met with therein, the native press will soon become weak and will be unable to perform their function of advisers of Government.

SANJIVANI,  
May 25th, 1889.

67. The *Sanjivani*, of the 25th May, says that in a letter published in the *Englishman* newspaper, Mr. Phillips, Mr. Phillips, Magistrate of Rajshahye, has given reasons why certain native newspapers have been writing against him. And his reason why this paper is writing against him is that some time ago Mr. Ainslie, a Deputy Magistrate under him, punished the printer of this paper in a defamation case. It is now for Government to consider whether or not the man who can argue in this way is fit for discharging the duties of a District Magistrate.

68. The *Bangabási*, of the 25th May, says that in his attack upon the native press, Mr. Phillips has been guilty of the same unfairness of which he has accused native papers. Has it been fair to impute unworthy motives to the *Hindu Ranjika* and certain other papers, and upon their fancied guilt to base a wholesale indictment against the native press? The writer is sorry that in order to conceal one wrong thing Mr. Phillips is resorting to ten other wrong things. A man of Mr. Phillips' position ought to act with greater care and discretion.

BANGABASI,  
May 25th, 1889.

69. The *Dacca Prakásh*, of the 26th May, supports the request made to Government by Girindra Baboo, Deputy Magistrate of Tangail, to render help in the

DACCA PRAKASH,  
May 26th, 1889.

The tornado in Tangail. matter of the treatment of those who have been wounded and injured in the tornado which recently swept over the subdivision of Tangail, and observes that it is of the last importance that there should be no loss of time whatever on the part of Government in sending help. The Commissioner of the Division telegraphed to Government for aid on Wednesday, the 22nd May, but no answer to this telegram has been yet received. The Commissioner's telegram was itself sent on the ninth day after the tornado, and nobody knows how many days Government will take to answer it.

70. The *Dacca Gazette*, of the 27th May, says that Lord Lansdowne has now freely expressed his view regarding the hill residence of the officials. He is stated to have declared that it is residence in the cold climate of Simla which enables English officers to do good work for India. If so, it cannot but be that English officials undergo a strange metamorphosis on coming out to this country. The writer will probably have now to change his opinion of Lord Lansdowne.

DACCA GAZETTE,  
May 27th, 1889.

71. The *Dainik o Samáchar Chandriká*, of the 27th May, is glad that Mr. Edgar has been made a K.C.I.E. A ruler earns glory or disgrace according as his ministers are good or bad. The success of Sir Stuart Bayley's administration is in a great measure due to the fact of his having Sir John Edgar for his Chief Secretary.

DAINIK O SAMACHAR  
CHANDRIKA,  
May 27th, 1889.

#### URIYA PAPERS.

72. The *Oria and Navasamvád*, of the 8th May, and the *Samvadbáhiká*, of the 9th May, bring it prominently to the notice of Government and the public that the want of drinkable water is greatly felt in the interior of the Balasore district, and that a long succession of rainless days has spread fear among its inhabitants. The price of rice is said to be rising rapidly on that account.

ORIA AND NAVA-  
SAMVAD,  
May 8th 1889.

73. In alluding to the contemplated measures regarding the imposition of certain restrictions on the manufacture and sale of country-made wine in Bengal, the *Utkaldipika*, of the 11th May, points out that the same restrictions ought to apply to *madak* (a preparation of opium) which is as extensively used in Orissa as wine is in Bengal Proper.

UTKALDIPIKA,  
May 11th, 1889.

#### ASSAM PAPERS.

74. The *Silchar*, of the 20th May, says that there is much mismanagement in the Forest Department in Assam. Traders in timber generally succeed in deceiving Government by disposing of timber before reaching Silchar, where duty above Rs. 50 is realised. One ranger is not sufficient to detect the

SILCHAR,  
May 28th, 1889.

traders who sell their timber in this way by stealth. An additional ranger is therefore urgently wanted at the Sudder station. It is suggested that, instead of appointing a separate ranger, an able guard may be vested with the powers of a ranger for the months during which the pressure of work is so heavy.

SILCHAR,  
May 28th, 1889.

75. The same paper says that the post of Inspector of Schools in Assam is quite unnecessary. It should be abolished, and a large sum of public money saved. There are 11 higher class English schools in Assam. The maintenance of the three higher class schools in each of the three hill districts causes mere waste of money. It is a blunder of Mr. Wilson, the Inspector, that these three schools have not been lowered to the minor standard. The remaining eight higher class schools, which are not under the inspection of the Deputy Inspectors, are well conducted by their respective head-masters. It is a matter of indifference whether or not the Inspector visits any of them for not more than three or four hours in a year. Where is then the necessity of paying Rs. 1,200 or Rs. 1,300 a month to an Inspector? The post should be abolished or at least replaced by two Joint-Inspectorships. The charge of the districts of Goalpara, Sylhet, Silchar, and Nowgong may be placed in the hands of the dexterous, skilful and experienced Deputy Inspector, Navakishore Baboo, while another equally able Deputy Inspector may be selected for the remaining districts. The removal of Mr. J. Wilson will produce the desired object. But Government will not disturb him because he is a *sahib*. But his transfer to Bengal will be best for all parties. The Chief Commissioner is requested to consider this matter.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

*Bengali Translator.*

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,  
The 1st June 1889.